

Remarks:

Claims remain in this case and all claims stand rejected.

*Examiner's Objections*

In the subject Office Action, the Examiner objected to claim 1 for a typographical error including limitation "c." This objection is rendered moot in light of the amendment to claim 1.

The Examiner objected to the specification in respect of antecedent basis. Claim 2 has been cancelled, and the objection to claim 2 is moot. Claim 4 has been amended as helpfully suggested by the Examiner.

Regarding claim 6, the Examiner took the position that claim 6 recited "a shortened nail lapel pin, which has no proper antecedent basis in the specification. This position of the Examiner is respectfully traversed, in that paragraph 42 of the specification recites "a round catch plate 26 to receive a modified or cut-off nail fastening mechanism 18 of a common type ornamental lapel pin end member 12 that releasably clips into the hole 28 of the catch fastening mechanism." Reconsideration is therefore respectfully requested.

Claims 16 and 17 have been cancelled, and this objection of the Examiner is therefore rendered moot. This claim cancellation also renders moot the objections of the Examiner in respect of the drawings.

*Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph*

The Examiner next rejected claims 1-23 as indefinite. Claim 1 has been amended as helpfully suggested by the Examiner, so that the end member is "attached", rather than adapted to attach.

Claim 7 has been amended to more properly depend from claim 5, which positively recited a "coil". Claim 8 has been amended to define the ends of the U-shaped plate, and claim 9 has been amended to clarify that the gap is defined between the ends of the U-shaped

plate. Claim 14 has been amended to respond to the Examiner's rejection, and claim 15 has been cancelled. Claims 11 and 12 have also been cancelled as directed to redundant subject matter.

The Examiner requested clarification in claim 19, which recites a sphere with a flattened surface. This feature is illustrated in FIG. 3, which shows a spherical end member, with a portion removed to leave a flattened surface.

*Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102*

The Examiner then rejected claims 1-7, 10-15, 18, and 20-23 as anticipated by the present inventor's previous U.S. Patent No. 6,655,558. The '558 patent is directed to an ornamental visor-bending device comprising a laterally arched member running substantially from one side of a baseball cap visor to the other side. The bending device is preferably worn on the bottom surface of the visor, and this both ends of the arched member are positioned on the top surface of the visor. In contrast, with the present invention, the strand defines a first end and a second end, with one end on the top surface of visor and the other end on the bottom surface, with end members thus positioned on opposite surfaces of the visor.

Thus, claim 1, and the claims that depend therefrom, should now be in condition for allowance.

The Examiner also rejected claim 1 as anticipated by Knutson. Nothing in Knutson shows or suggests end members on each end of a strand, with one end member on the top surface of the visor and the other end member on the bottom surface of the visor, as in claim 1 as amended. Thus, claim 1 should be allowable.

The Examiner then rejected claims 1, 8-10, 18, and 23 as anticipated by Siekierski. Siekierski teaches a threadless jewelry connector assembly, used to fit through pierced human skin. Nothing in this reference shows or suggests end members on each end of a

strand, with one end member on the top surface of the visor and the other end member on the bottom surface of the visor, as in claim 1 as amended. Thus, claim 1 should be allowable.

*Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103*

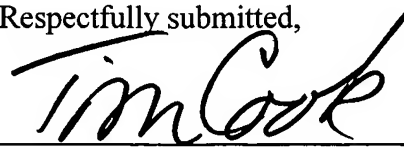
The rejections of claims 16 and 17 are moot because these claims have been cancelled.

The Examiner rejected claim 19 as obvious over Lawrence in view of Knutson. As previously described the '558 patent is directed to an ornamental visor-bending device comprising a laterally arched member running substantially from one side of a baseball cap visor to the other side. In contrast, with the present invention, the strand defines a first end and a second end, with one end on the top surface of visor and the other end on the bottom surface, with end members thus positioned on opposite surfaces of the visor. Further, this feature is neither shown nor suggested by Knutson. In fact, including the feature of the present invention would be counterproductive applied to the structure of Knutson, and thus claim 19 is allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

*Conclusion*

The Applicant respectfully requests early allowance. If the Examiner believes that a phone conference would expedite this case to issue, he is encouraged to contact the undersigned. No additional fee is required.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tim Cook", written over a horizontal line.

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